

PIKE

Benjamin Whitmer

Douglas Pike is no longer the murderous hustler he was in his youth, but reforming hasn't made him much kinder. He's just living out his life in his Appalachian hometown, working odd jobs with his partner, Rory, hemming in his demons the best he can. And his best seems just good enough until his estranged daughter overdoses and he takes in his twelve-year-old granddaughter, Wendy.

Just as the two are beginning to forge a relationship, Derrick Kreiger, a dirty Cincinnati cop, starts to take an unhealthy interest in the girl. Pike and Rory head to Cincinnati to learn what they can about Derrick and the death of Pike's daughter, and the three men circle, evenly matched predators in a human wilderness of junkie squats, roadhouse bars and homeless Vietnam vet encampments

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Benjamin Whitmer was raised by back-to-the-landers in southern Ohio and upstate New York. He now lives with his wife and two children in Colorado, where he spends most of his time trolling local histories and haunting the bookshops, blues bars, and firing ranges of ungentrified Denver. He has published fiction and non-fiction in a number of magazines, anthologies, and essay collections. *Pike* is his first novel

ACCOLADES

"Without so much as a sideways glance towards gentility, *Pike* is one righteous mutherfucker of a read. I move that we put Whitmer's balls in a vise and keep slowly notching up the torque until he's willing to divulge the secret of how he managed to hit such a perfect stride his first time out of the blocks."

—Ward Churchill

"Benjamin Whitmer's *Pike* captures the grime and the rage of my not-so fair city with disturbing precision. The words don't just tell a story here, they scream, bleed, and burst into flames. *Pike*, like its eponymous main character, is a vicious punisher that doesn't mince words or take prisoners, and no one walks away unscathed. This one's going to haunt me for quite some time."

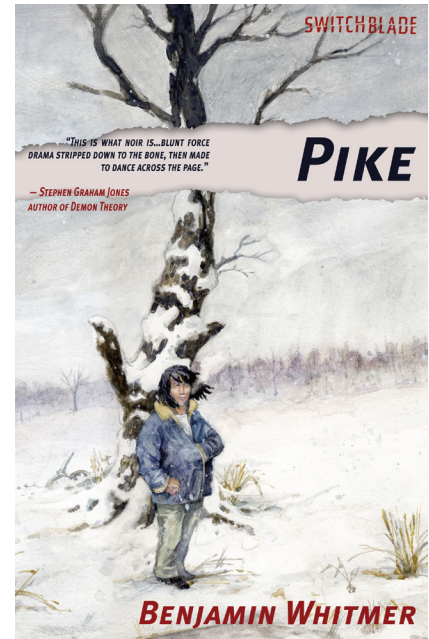
—Nathan Singer

"This is what noir is, what it can be when it stops playing nice—blunt force drama stripped down to the bone, then made to dance across the page."

—Stephen Graham Jones

"In a just world *Pike* will salt the Earth and reset the clock for noir in the 21st century, forcing others to re-examine what can be done with the form."

—*Spinetingler Magazine*



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